

***VANILLA YERSINIANA* (ORCHIDACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

ESA, M. I. M., NORDIN, F. A., GO, R. & RAFFI, A. 2021. *Vanilla yersiniana* (Orchidaceae), a new record for Peninsular Malaysia. *Reinwardtia* 20(2): 49 – 53. — The genus *Vanilla* Plum. ex Mill. from Peninsular Malaysia is now enriched with the discovery of a newly recorded species, *Vanilla yersiniana* that made up its regional diversity to eight taxa. This species was documented from two adjacent secondary lowland forests in Perak; further south to the southern tail of Thailand. This paper describes the first record of *V. yersiniana* in Peninsular Malaysia with some highlights of its morphology and ecology. The data presented will add to the present state of knowledge on the species botanical profile.

Key words: checklist, Malaysia, Orchidaceae, *Vanilla*.

ABSTRAK

ESA, M. I. M., NORDIN, F. A., GO, R. & RAFFI, A. 2021. *Vanilla yersiniana* (Orchidaceae), rekaman baru dari Semenanjung Malaya. *Reinwardtia* 20(2): 49 – 53. — Marga *Vanilla* Plum. ex Mill. dari Semenanjung Malaya kini diperkaya dengan penemuan jenis baru yang tercatat, *Vanilla yersiniana* yang membentuk keragaman regionalnya menjadi delapan taksa. Jenis ini didokumentasikan di dua hutan dataran rendah sekunder yang berdekatan di Perak; lebih jauh ke selatan ke ekor selatan Thailand. Makalah ini menjelaskan catatan pertama *V. yersiniana* di Semenanjung Malaysia dengan beberapa sorotan morfologi dan ekologi. Data yang disajikan akan menambah pengetahuan tentang profil botani terkini dari jenis ini.

Kata Kunci: Daftar jenis, Malaysia, Orchidaceae, *Vanilla*.

INTRODUCTION

Orchidaceae is a fascinating plant family that allures researchers globally to study their systematics, ecophysiology and economical values. The current research trend on orchids in Malaysia focuses largely on the enumeration of the family composition. It is a never-ending task; with a relatively vast and unexplored forested land, Malaysian orchid's inventory is most likely far from being complete. To date, there are approximately 3000 orchid species recorded throughout Malaysia (Ong *et al.*, 2017; Juiling *et al.*, 2020; Forest Department Sarawak, 2021). This figure is contributed by the series of novo discovery as well as the documentation of new regional record, which is also modelled by the local genus *Vanilla*

– the subject matter of this paper. Generally, the genus *Vanilla* of Malaysia is represented by ten species of which seven of them can be found in Peninsular Malaysia (Ong, 2018; Raffi, 2019). However, the genus account in the peninsula is now enriched with the discovery of a species with distinct morphological characters from two adjacent localities in the state of Perak. Its initial population was spotted in January 2021 with individuals bearing short sterile inflorescences (indicators of post-anthesis and unsuccessful fertilization) and the species identity was revealed two months later when three individuals were found flowering. This species was preliminary referred as *V. albida* Blume due to its high morphological resemblance but is later confirmed as *V. yersiniana* Guillaumin & Sigaldi based on